Assistance for marriage of Scheduled Caste girls

*380. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to provide financial assistance for the marriage of girl child belonging to Scheduled Caste; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Upgradation of Meteorological Centre at Imphal

2724. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the meteorological office at Imphal has remained without any up-gradation since its inception;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have a policy to upgrade the meteorological centre; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government would undertake the work?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It was established on 19.12.1952 as a class IIa (two observations daily) surface meteorological observatory. It was upgraded to a class I (Eight observations daily) observatory on 15.04.1961. It was further upgraded to a Pilot Balloon Observatory on 29.3.1973 for taking upper-air winds four times a day. Presently, it is the third largest Meteorological Office after Guwahati and Dibrugarh under Regional Meteorological Centre, Guwahati in the North East India.

(c) and (d) Under the modernization programme of IMD, it is proposed to further upgrade, replacing the manual instruments by Automatic Weather Stations during 11th Five Year Plan.

Establishment of early warning system for Tsunami

†2725. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are establishing early warning system for Tsunami and tempest;

(b) whether an interim tsunami warning centre has been established in Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Service (INCOIS) for tsunami warning;

(c) whether it is a fact that an automatic tide measuring instrument has also been establishment near Indian coast line; and

(d) the steps beign taken by Government to establish communication system between tide measuring instrument through INSAT and INCOIS based early warning system in order to prevent any emergency crisis?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government is setting up an Early Warning System for Tsunami and Storm Surges in the Indian Ocean. The system is liely to be operational by September, 2007. A centre would be set up at Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh on a 24x7 basis. An interim early warning mechanism is presently operational at INCOIS, Hyderabad on 24x7 basis.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Under this project 50 automatic Tide Gauges are planned to be installed along the Indian coastline. 20 such Tide Gauges have already been installed. Ministry of Earth Sciences is working with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for setting up of the INSAT based communication facility for receiving data in real time from Tide Gauges and Bottom Pressure Recorders.

Participation in fairs and exhibitions

2726. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fairs and exhibitions held and those in which

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.